GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2460
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2014
CASES OF THALASSEMIA
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of patients suffering from thalassemia in the country, State/UT-wise;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their early diagnosis and management in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote thalassemia related diagnostic test and make prenatal diagnosis compulsory to prevent the said blood related disorder;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the blood and other health requirements of thalassemia patients in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a): Data regarding number of patients suffering from thalassemia in the country are not maintained centrally.

(b): Health is a State subject and State Governments are providing various health care facilities. However, support is being provided to States and UTs under National Rural Health Mission(NRHM) for strengthening the health care facilities.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakrama(RBSK) recently launched under NRHM provides for early detection and treatment of children suffering from genetic disorders. The diseases like sickle cell anaemia, Beta Thalassemia and other health conditions are covered under child health screening up to the age of 18 years. Operational Guidelines have been issued under this scheme to all the States /UTs for Child Health screening and early intervention services.
State Governments can submit proposals in this regard in their respective Programme Implementation Plans(PIPs) for consideration of central assistance under NRHM.

(c) & (d): Facilities for medical check up before marriage is available at various health centres of the Government.

(e): The National Blood Transfusion Council under National AIDS Control Organisation(NACO) has issued guidelines to all States/UTs that patients suffering from thalassemia, haemophilia or sickle cell anaemia should be provided blood free of cost.